

IN THE CLAIMS:

Kindly cancel non-elected claims 12-43. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

STATUS OF THE CLAIMS:

1. An isolated nucleic acid molecule selected from the group consisting of:
  - (a) a nucleic acid molecule comprising the nucleotide sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:1; and
  - (b) a nucleic acid molecule comprising the nucleotide sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:3.
2. An isolated nucleic acid molecule which encodes a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:2.
3. An isolated nucleic acid molecule which encodes a naturally-occurring allelic variant of a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:2.
- 4.(amended herein) An isolated nucleic acid molecule selected from the group consisting of:
  - (a) a nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence which is at least ~~60%~~ 90% identical to the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 or 3, or a complement thereof;
  - (b) a nucleic acid molecule comprising a fragment of at least ~~30~~ 150 nucleotides of a nucleic acid comprising the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 or 3, or a complement thereof;
  - (c) a nucleic acid molecule which encodes a polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence at least about ~~60%~~ 90% identical to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2; and
  - (d) a nucleic acid molecule which encodes a fragment of a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, wherein the fragment comprises at least ~~40~~ 50 contiguous amino acid residues of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2.
5. An isolated nucleic acid molecule which hybridizes to a complement of the nucleic acid molecule of any one of claims 1, 2, 3, or 4 under stringent conditions.

6. An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence which is complementary to the nucleotide sequence of the nucleic acid molecule of any one of claims 1, 2, 3, or 4.

7. An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising the nucleic acid molecule of any one of claims 1, 2, 3, or 4, and a nucleotide sequence encoding a heterologous polypeptide.

8. A vector comprising the nucleic acid molecule of any one of claims 1, 2, 3, or 4.

9. The vector of claim 8, which is an expression vector.

10. A host cell transfected with the expression vector of claim 9.

11. A method of producing a polypeptide comprising culturing the host cell of claim 10 in an appropriate culture medium to, thereby, produce the polypeptide.

12-43 (herein cancelled)